



*A message from*

**George Boggs**

**WADE President**

360-354-2035 ext. 115

Hannegan Road, Lynden, WA 98264



#### **WADE Officers**

**George Boggs, President**  
Whatcom CD

**Kim Simpson, Vice President**  
Okanogan CD

**Cora Amburn-Lijek, Secretary**  
Skagit CD

**Dawn Bekenyi, Treasurer**  
Whatcom CD

**Bob Amrine, Officer-At-Large**  
Lewis County CD

**Karen Hand, Officer-At-Large**  
Upper Grant CD



## **Washington Association of District Employees**

Welcome to the first edition of the Washington Association of District Employees (WADE) newsletter! We hope you find this useful as a way to encourage participation and communication among conservation district employees across the state.

**Save the date for next year's annual WADE Training Conference, scheduled for June 19-21, 2006** at Sleeping Lady Conference Center in Leavenworth. The cost for full conference registration will be \$375 (or \$225 for Tuesday only). Please note that basic funding and other grants from WA Conservation Commission (WCC) allow for those funds to pay for employee training. For districts that need additional financial assistance in order to send supervisors/associate supervisors to the WADE conference, capacity-building special funds may be available through the WCC. Please contact Cheryl Witt at the WCC (cwit461@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6205) for more information about capacity-building funds, or to find out about the possibility of using the special funds to pay for *employees* to attend WADE training.

Last year's training received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with a few comments to consider. Potential additions to the agenda in 2006 could include:

- New employee/supervisor orientation session
- Job approval authority certification/Technical Service Provider (TSP) certification
- Basic vs. Advanced training for planners

### ***2006 WADE Conference Planning***

A big thank you to Kim Simpson, District Treasurer for Okanogan CD and WADE Vice-President, who has volunteered to take on the overall planning and coordination tasks for the 2006 WADE Training Conference. The theme for the 2006 WADE conference is "Expanding Our Horizons" and Kim is going to be looking for district employees to plan the individual tracks. Do you have great ideas for what subjects you'd like to see covered at the 2006 training? Do you want to be more involved? Contact Kim (kims@okanogancd.org) to discuss ideas and/or to volunteer to organize a track.

Thus far, Dawn Bekenyi, WADE Treasurer and Office Assistant for Whatcom CD, has agreed to handle conference registration and correspondence with Sleeping Lady. Additionally, Andrew Phay, GIS Coordinator for Whatcom CD, will work with Tom Salzer (WCC) to organize the technology/computer track for the 2006 conference.

To remind you of last year's subject areas, listed below are the track leaders and categories for the 2005 conference. Feel free to contact last year's leaders to find out what's involved in planning a track. We encourage more east side participation in 2006!

#### **2005 training categories and leaders:**

- Administration/ Supervisor – Dawn Bekenyi (Whatcom CD)
- Education and Outreach – Beth Chisholm and Andrea Hood (Whatcom CD)
- Financial – Dawn Bekenyi (Whatcom CD)
- Forestry – Carolyn Kelly (Skagit CD)
- Information Technology – Andrew Phay (Whatcom CD) and Tom Salzer (WA Conservation Commission)
- Livestock - Dina Fine (Snohomish CD)
- Riparian Restoration – Wayne Chaudiere and Frank Corey (Whatcom CD)
- Water Quality – Jenny Baker (Snohomish CD)
- Keynote Speaker – Dawn Bekenyi (Whatcom CD)
- WADE Bucks (Skagit CD) and Auction (Whatcom CD)
- After Hours General Interest Session – Alan Shank (China Trip overview from Farm Forestry Leadership Program, Snohomish CD)

### ***WADE Officers***

Who are your WADE representatives? At the 2005 WADE training conference, many of you voted in the election and met the 2005-2006 WADE officers. For the rest of you, turn the page to find out about them and start thinking about participating in WADE as an officer next year!

The major function of WADE officers is to maintain communication among districts throughout the state. WADE officers participate in a meeting at the WA Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) annual convention, participate in conference calls to discuss concerns, and facilitate planning of the annual WADE training conference. The WADE president also represents district employees at the WACD Officers & Directors meetings.

**George Boggs – WADE President**



George was hired as manager by the Whatcom Conservation District in the spring of 1997. With two degrees, experience as a farmer, trustee of an irrigation district and an attorney, George was well qualified to take on this task. He has since provided technical expertise to WACD in the Ag Fish & Water, WACD CREP Committee, and Livestock Development & Oversight Committee processes. He is currently co-chair of the Ag Subcommittee for the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound International Airshed Strategy. “My greatest satisfaction is helping the farming community meet the environmental challenges of a changing world”.

**Kim Simpson – WADE Vice President**

In 1995 I decided to go back to school and graduated from Wenatchee Valley College with my son in 1997. I received an AA and accounting certificate and then moved on to Heritage College where I received a BA in Public Administration in 1999. I have worked for the Okanogan Conservation District for almost seven years now as District Treasurer and enjoy the team spirit our office has. I began serving as a Director for WADE in 2002 and was asked to take the Vice President position in 2004. I organized the Financial Track for two years. Being involved in WADE is a great way to get first-hand knowledge of what is going on and gives me opportunity to make a difference.



My husband and I have been married 33 years; have two sons and a daughter, three grandsons with two more on the way. They all live on the west side and I enjoy visiting them as often as I can. I also enjoy fellowship with my church group, gardening, walking, reading and GEO Caching. We have a large yard with three ponds, two waterfalls, and lots of Koi.

**Cora Amburn-Lijek – WADE Secretary**



After many years teaching English as a Second Language and following my husband, a Foreign Service Officer, around the world, we moved to Washington in 1996, where he had grown up and where his family still lived. In 1998 I joined the Skagit Conservation District staff as a staff assistant. I went from not knowing what a conservation district was to becoming very well educated about conservation districts (CDs) and their roles at both the local and state levels because I work for a very active District Manager, who is very involved at many levels and with many organizations, including the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) and WADE. I first became involved with WADE about five years ago when my

District Manager, Carolyn Kelly, asked me to help with WADE training registration. I really enjoyed working on the registration, and have helped several times since. I have also had the chance to attend the training several times. I would encourage all CD employees to attend the annual WADE training and to become involved in WADE. The training sessions continue to improve each year because of the hard work of CD employees who are involved in WADE. The sessions also provide an opportunity for CD employees throughout the state to network, share problems and solutions.

**Dawn Bekenyi - WADE Treasurer**

I'm a native Whatcom County resident. During my formative years my grandmother, Bernice Graves DeVore (a high school biology teacher, WACD Teacher of the Year and Whatcom Conservation District Supervisor) would take us hiking around the Pacific Northwest sharing all the wonders of nature. As Chair of the WACD Education Committee, she “made” me and my younger sister go to the Natural Resources Youth Camp in its inaugural year. Thus set the groundwork for an interest in the environment. My employment interests were in office work, especially bookkeeping. Those two things combined when I began working for the Whatcom Conservation District in November 1991 as the Office Assistant. My duties have since changed and grown. I am now the Office Coordinator and WADE Treasurer.



My foray into being a WADE officer is not as exciting. I was nominated to be the Secretary for WADE in 2001 and couldn't say no. So you could say I was drafted. However, since then I volunteered to be Treasurer and enjoy that. (Less paperwork.) I think all District employees should be involved in WADE. Not necessarily as an officer, but involved. The more input we get from all employees, the better training we can provide.



**Bob Amrine - WADE Officer-at-Large**

I've been at the Lewis County Conservation District for just over ten years and manager for six years. I have a B.A. in administration and a B.S. in Environmental Science.

**Karen Hand - WADE Officer-at-Large**

I joined the staff of Upper Grant CD in July 2001 as a part-time Administrative Assistant. As many of you know from your own experience, I haven't worked part-time since. My duties and responsibilities have grown and changed as the district has grown and changed. In January 2005, I was designated the District Treasurer for the newly formed Grant Conservation District.



I became a WADE officer because I like to be involved in what is going on. I'm a firm believer in if you don't participate, don't complain. So I stay involved and participate as much as I can.